

Philosophy 6: Human Being, God, and Society in Western Literature  
Fall 2013, 141 McCone Hall, MWF 12pm-1pm

Alex Madva (alexmadva@gmail.com, madva@berkeley.edu)  
Moses 247, Office Hours TBD

Graduate Student Instructors  
Michael Diaz (diamic08@berkeley.edu)  
B. Scott Rousse (bsrousse@berkeley.edu)

Course Description

This course will explore fundamental questions about the human condition—including the nature of freedom, the good life, justice, and the individual's relation to family, friends, romantic partners, the wider community, and God(s)—through the lens of classic literary and religious texts, including Homer's *Odyssey*, Plato's *Symposium*, Virgil's *Aeneid*, the Bible, Dante's *Divine Comedy*, Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, Austen's *Pride & Prejudice*, Dostoevsky's *Crime & Punishment*, and more recent fiction.

Course Grading and Requirements:

Attendance & Participation (15%) and 3 Papers (85%)  
1<sup>st</sup> paper: 3 pages, 25% (Due 9/24)  
2<sup>nd</sup> paper: 5 pages, 30% (Due 10/29)  
3<sup>rd</sup> paper: 5 pages, 30% (Due 12/16)

Attendance & Participation (15%): **Attendance to lectures and sections is mandatory, as is arriving on time.** Excused absences require signed documentation from a doctor or dean. **Participation and preparation are crucial.** There are a variety of ways to participate, including: actively contributing to section discussions, demonstrating reflection on the readings, listening actively and carefully to others' contributions (and not dominating discussion), showing respect toward classmates, and visiting office hours.

Graduate Student Instructors (GSIs) **may** also give pop quizzes, assign 1-2 page reading response papers, or assign other homework to ensure that students keep up with the assignments.

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated in this course. Students caught plagiarizing will receive an F in the course. Please read the handout entitled "Plagiarism and Academic Integrity" (to be distributed with the first paper topics; also available on bSpace), and review university policy at <http://www.berkeley.edu/catalog/policies/conduct.html>.

**Note:** In writing papers for this class, use of secondary sources, outside of the assigned readings, is generally discouraged. If you are not clear about the expectations for completing an assignment, be sure to seek clarification from me or your GSI beforehand.

Required Texts (Cal Bookstore)

**\*\*\*You are required to read these exact editions and translations\*\*\***

*The Odyssey of Homer* (Perennial Classics, HarperCollins, tr. Lattimore)

*The Aeneid of Virgil* (Bantam, tr. Mandelbaum)

Plato, *Symposium* (Hackett, trs. Nehamas, Woodruff)

*The Holy Bible: Revised Standard Version* (Meridian)

Dante Alighieri, *Inferno* (Bantam, tr. Mandelbaum)

William Shakespeare, *Hamlet* (Folger)

Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice* (Oxford)

Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment* (Vintage, trs. Pevear & Volokhonsky)

Derek Walcott, *Omeros* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux)

Course Reader (abbreviated on the syllabus as [CR])

Available at Zee Zee Copy (2431-C Durant Ave, bt Dana & Telegraph) and in PDF on bSpace

Course Schedule

Week 1

10/30 (Friday) - Introductory Lecture

Week 2

9/2 (Monday) – LABOR DAY, NO CLASS

9/4 – 3 short readings on bSpace and CR

David Foster Wallace, Kenyon commencement speech (2005) [bSpace]

Martin Heidegger, “Home: The 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Town of Messkirch” [bSpace]

Homer, *Iliad*, Book XVIII, lines 468-607, “Achilles’ Shield” [CR]

9/6 – Homer, *Odyssey*, Books I-IV (pp.27-87)

Week 3

9/9 – Homer, *Odyssey*, Books V-IX (pp.88-151)

9/11 – *Odyssey*, Books X-XIV (pp.152-224)

9/13 – *Odyssey*, Books XV-XIX (pp.225-297)

Week 4

9/16 – Finish *Odyssey*, Books XX –XXIV (pp.298-359)

9/18 – Plato, *Symposium*, up to “Socrates Questions Agathon” (pp.1-44, 172A-201C)

9/20 – Finish *Symposium*, (pp.45-77, 201D-223D)

Week 5

9/23 – Virgil, *Aeneid*, I-IV (pp.1-102)

9/24 – 1<sup>ST</sup> PAPER DUE

9/25 – *Aeneid*, V-VIII (pp.103-111)

9/27 – Finish *Aeneid*, IX-XII (pp.212-331)

Week 6

9/30 – *Genesis*, Chs. 1-11 (pp.1-9)

10/2 – *Genesis*, Chs. 12-36 (pp.9-33)

10/4 *Genesis*, Chs. 37-50 (pp.33-47), *Ecclesiastes* (pp.587-594), *Job* (pp.442-474)

### Week 7

10/7 – *Matthew* (pp.1-32), *Luke* (pp.52-86)

10/9 – *John* (pp.86-111)

10/11 – *Qur'an*, Surahs 1, 114, 112, 56, 2, 4 [CR]

### Week 8

10/14 – Augustine, *Confessions*, Book II, “Adolescence”; Abelard & Heloise, *Letters* [CR]

10/16 – Dante Alighieri, *Inferno*, Cantos I-XIII (pp.3-121)

10/18 – *Inferno*, Cantos XIV-XXIV (pp.125-225)

### Week 9

10/21 – Finish *Inferno*, Cantos XXV-XXXIV (pp.227-317)

10/23 – *Purgatorio*, Cantos I, XV-XVIII, XXVII-XXXI [CR]

10/25 – *Paradiso*, Cantos II-III, VII, XVII, XXII-XXIII, XXVII, XXX-XXXIII [CR]

### Week 10

10/28 – Giovanni Boccaccio, *Decameron*, Prologue, Introduction, 1.1, 1.2, 2.9, 3.10, 5.8, 6.1, Epilogue [CR]

10/29 – 2<sup>ND</sup> PAPER DUE

10/30 – William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, Act 1 (pp.7-69)

11/1 – *Hamlet*, Acts 2-3 (pp.73-185)

### Week 11

11/4 – Finish *Hamlet*, Acts 4-5 (pp.189-287)

11/6 – Jane Austen, *Pride & Prejudice*, Volume I (pp.1-101)

11/8 – *Pride & Prejudice*, Volume II (pp.103-184)

### Week 12

11/11 – NO CLASS ON MONDAY, ACADEMIC HOLIDAY

11/13 – Finish *Pride & Prejudice*, Volume III (pp.185-298)

11/15 – Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Crime & Punishment*, Part 1, Part 2 (I-IV) (pp.3-131)

### Week 13

11/18 – *Crime & Punishment*, finish Part 2, Part 3 (I-III) (pp.131-235)

11/20 – *Crime & Punishment*, finish Part 3, Part 4 (I-IV) (pp.236-331)

11/22 – *Crime & Punishment*, finish Part 4, Part 5 (pp.331-436)

### Week 14

11/25 – Finish *Crime & Punishment*, Part 6, Epilogue (pp.439-551)

11/27 – Friedrich Nietzsche, *Gay Science*, Aphorisms 4, 7, 34, 125, 193, 250, 283, 285, 290, 310, 319, 340, 341 [CR]

11/29 – NO CLASS ON FRIDAY, THANKSGIVING BREAK

### Week 15

12/2 – Derek Walcott, *Omeros*, Books I-II (pp.3-131)

12/4 – *Omeros*, Books III-V (pp.133-219)

12/6 – Finish *Omeros*, Books VI-VII (pp.221-325)

### Finals Week

12/16 – 3<sup>RD</sup> PAPER DUE